

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

After reviewing your initial Fiscal Year 2010 budget documents, we respectfully request that you reconsider proposed cuts to the Market Access Program (MAP) and include full funding for this important program in your detailed budget proposal due out this Spring.

By helping improve access to overseas markets through consumer promotion, market research, and technical assistance, MAP benefits American farmers and the nation's economy, while improving our trade balance and creating jobs.

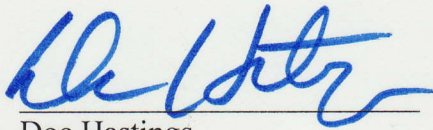
Supporting American farmers and farm communities must be a part of getting our economy back on track. At a time when our nation is struggling to create jobs and our government is spending hundreds of billions to boost the economy, we believe cuts to MAP represent a step in the wrong direction. It is difficult to understand why cuts to MAP are necessary while an increase has been proposed for the overall Department of Agriculture budget for next year.

MAP benefits many specialty crop growers and processors who do not receive subsidy payments. MAP funds are used by nonprofit commodity organizations and broad based agriculture groups that represent farmers and agriculture producers across the nation. Not only must program participants generate significant nonfederal matching funds, but they must also provide detailed records of their expenses that are subject to audits. In addition, applications for MAP funds undergo a competitive review process and all program participants must demonstrate effective performance.

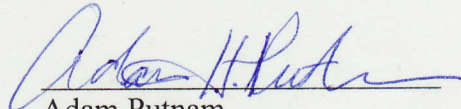
MAP is a proven and effective program that is particularly important to the economy in rural communities and trade-dependent states. Congress set the authorized level of MAP funding at \$200 million a year in the latest Farm Bill. We encourage you

to maintain that full amount in your detailed budget proposal and look forward to working with you to support American farmers and farm communities.

Sincerely,



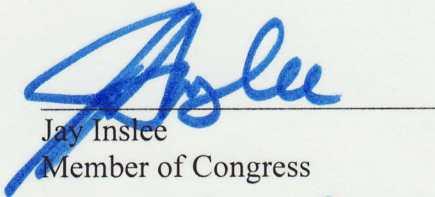
Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



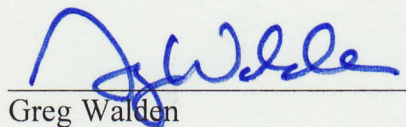
Adam Putnam
Member of Congress



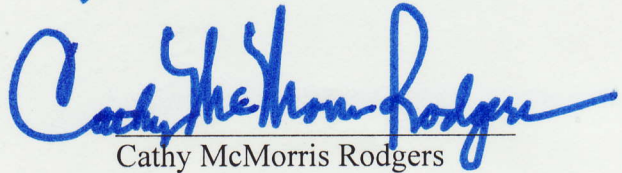
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



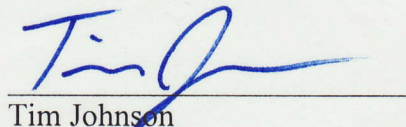
Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



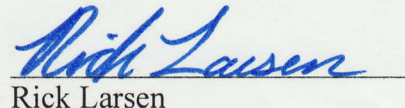
Greg Walden
Member of Congress



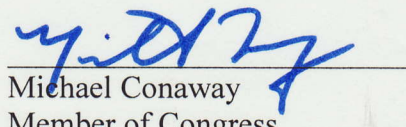
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



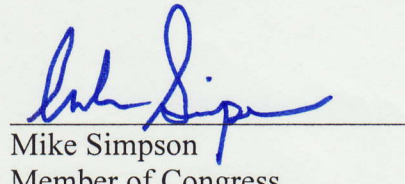
Tim Johnson
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



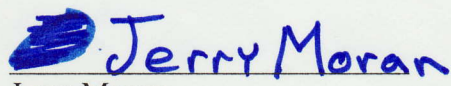
Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



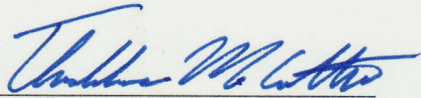
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



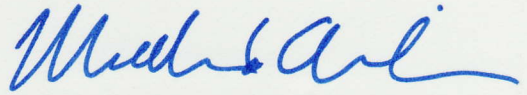
David P. Roe
Member of Congress



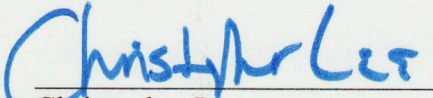
Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



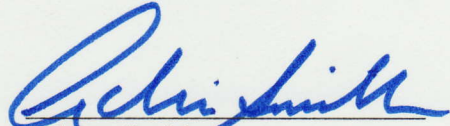
Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress



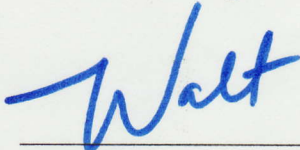
Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress



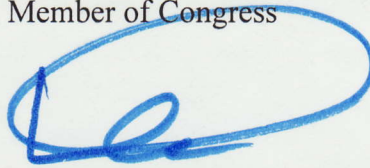
Christopher Lee
Member of Congress



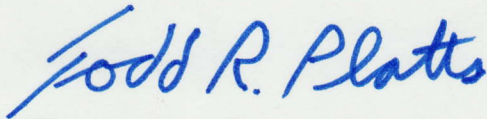
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



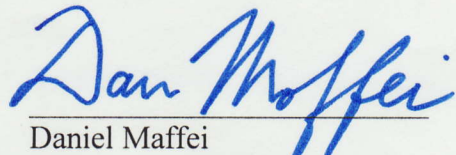
Walt Minnick
Member of Congress



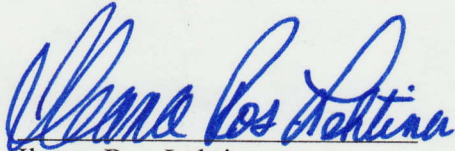
David Wu
Member of Congress



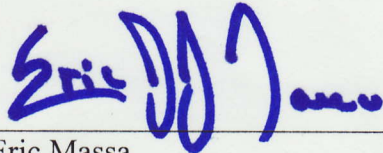
Todd R. Platts
Member of Congress



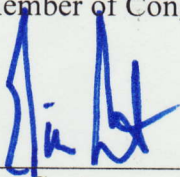
Daniel Maffei
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



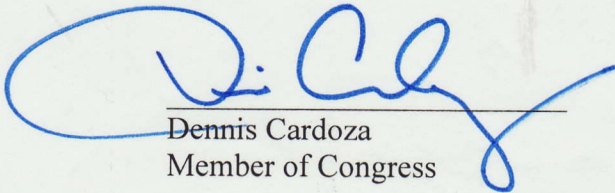
Eric Massa
Member of Congress



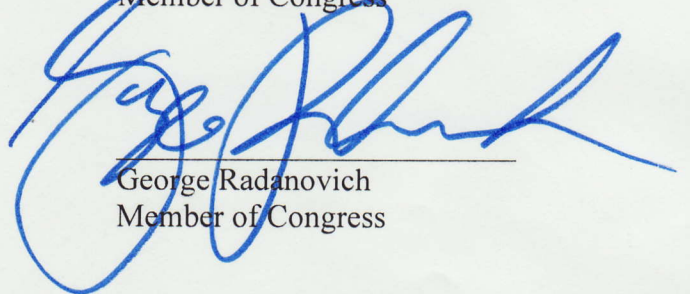
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress



George Radanovich
Member of Congress

CC: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
CC: OMB Director Peter Orszag